

The Times-Dispatch

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FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1913.

WHO SHALL REPRESENT THE PEOPLE?

Valuable service to the city and to the party can be rendered by members of the City Democratic Committee. That body has powers which, rightly used, can give equal opportunity to all men who desire to become candidates for public office, and which, wrongly used, can become an instrument of injustice.

Dates for the holding of primary elections, at times when it will best suit certain people, may be fixed by the committee. In many cases the sums to be paid by candidates as entrance fees are determined by the same body. It has jurisdiction of recounts and canvasses and may be employed as an arbiter of rights or as an oppressor of those who are not affiliated with certain powers.

Therefore, membership on the committee should be sought by men who are willing to serve the city and the party and to help clean up our politics. Two years ago its ranks were filled, by a few people, who selected the membership to suit themselves. However, valuable some of these men so selected have proved, it can never be forgotten that this is the committee that tabbed the resignations of four city employees and countenanced their retention as members in direct defiance of the city ordinance that forbids city employees to serve on political committees, and that this is the committee of which a majority actually voted to attend the Wilson inauguration at the expense of the party funds, without regard to the cost, which had not been inquired into.

Party service can be made a badge of honor if good men will seek and accept membership. Let the people take this matter up at once, see who are the candidates from the respective wards, and secure before noon tomorrow the names of patriotic citizens to oppose those deemed unworthy. Even if all the names filed are those of good men, the people as a whole have the right of selection.

Unless nominations are formally filed before noon tomorrow, the City Democratic Committee will be composed of persons selected without consulting the people of this city. Do the citizens favor having this important body named without their knowledge? Shall the state of designing politicians be shoved through because the people are asleep? What have the people of Richmond to say as to who shall compose the most important political body in the city? Unless new candidates are brought out before noon tomorrow, the state of the local machine will be elected without protest. What are the people going to do about this?

VON BETHMANN-HOLLEWEG'S PLEA.

Through the speech of Von Bethmann-Hollweg, German Chancellor, presented in the Reichstag the military budget, involving the stupendous additional taxation upon the people, a matter of \$1,000,000,000, for increased armament, one instinctively traces suggestion of "I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him." Also there is the suggestion of Bismarck's celebrated speech on the septennate bill, an echo of the reliance on the furor Teutonicus of the Iron Chancellor, whose name Von Bethmann-Hollweg adroitly introduced as one to conjure with on the occasion.

In the present Chancellor's appeal incident to support the measure is only strengthened, and the menace that makes it necessary is only thrown out in bolder relief by the irony of his tentative pacific assurances. Masterfully he juggles definite probabilities of war against indefinite possibilities of peace, to the amusement of jingoism.

For the rest, the speech is a distinct, an interesting and a significant admission that the Balkan War has transformed a negative friendly power into a possible positive enemy. A short while back General von Bernhardi declared in a book, which at the time created quite a stir in both military and diplomatic circles, that Turkey was the natural ally of Germany, and for that reason argued German intervention in the Turkish-Italian War. More than that, he had a large German following, who urged that Turkey should be invited to take the place of Italy in the triple alliance.

Von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech now bears testimony to recognition of "German political activity in states" hitherto comparatively quiescent. In a word, it concedes the entire elimination of Turkey as a factor of the future problem of adjustment and preservation of the European equilibrium, with the consequent vesting of the balance of power in the Balkan concert. In this aspect he accords an importance to the new Balkan power, raises it to a dignity acknowledged by the spokesmen of none of the other great powers, and fully justifies his plea that Germany give hostages to peace by the proposed increase in her military establishment, at whatever cost of additional burden of taxation.

For Von Bethmann-Hollweg makes it clear, notwithstanding his hypothetical note of optimism, that the only ally he believes Germany could surely count upon in the event of war is Austria-Hungary, and that he has little confidence that Russia and France

would scruple to precipitate such event, should opportunity offer, through continued Austro-Hungarian effort to secure southern Slav hegemony. In short, he makes it clear that, isolated as Germany is territorially, and with it a question whether Italy will remain much longer dependable, Germany's only safety is impregnability. In that light, his claim that the army budget is a peace measure is logically sustained. The other side, however, is whether, when she shall have become impregnable, she will not become insufferably arrogant, to the danger of her own peace and the peace of all Europe. That is the crux of the matter after all.

RURAL ORGANIZATION.

The announcement of Prof. T. N. Carver, of the department of economics at Harvard, that he will, as a government official, by invitation of Secretary of Agriculture Houston, give his time and thought to the development of a scheme in which the nation, through the Department of Agriculture, may aid in organizing rural life on a higher plane of efficient economic and educational administration, concentrates attention on the rural problem. For the last generation undue attention has been centered upon the city and town consumer and not enough on the rural producer and rural communities. "The demand now is for a new sort of elementary school, high school, and agricultural college that will serve the farmer and his children's public schools in the past never have served them," declares the Christian Science Monitor. The universities have joined the movement, and are making university extension mean much to the tillers of the soil in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota. Churches are ceasing to debate doctrine and are restoring to the rural church its place in society as a social and ethical center. The rural community is "both conscious of a new ideal for its own life and aware that it is to have guidance from without as never before in the history of the nation." The government has already advised it as to soil, crops, live stock and machinery, and it is in a receptive attitude toward government counsel as to the organization of its social life.

ON APPROVAL.

In New York a woman lately bought a \$200 hat. That night at a well-known hotel she wore the hat at dinner. The proprietor of the shop at which she had bought the hat was at dinner at the same time and place, and saw her with the hat on. The next morning he was amazed to find that the hat had been returned. At his request, the woman in the case called at the store, and the proprietor told her that he could not take the hat because she had worn it. She replied that she had done nothing of the kind. For the sake of policy, the proprietor took the hat back, although he knew beyond all doubt that she had worn it.

In Baltimore, a woman ordered an evening wrap sent to her home, and that evening she wore it to the theatre, where the salesman who had waited upon her saw her. The next morning she sent the wrap back, and when the proprietor protested against its return she denied emphatically that she had ever used it and left the wrap upon the counter. She walked out of the store, but before she was out of sight of it, a young saleslady ran after her and said, "Madam, you have forgotten these," and then handed her a handkerchief and a pair of gloves, saying, "These were taken from the pocket of the wrap."

The moral is that when a thing is bought on approval and used, it ought to be paid for. In Virginia there is a law against such practices, but it is safe to say that in hundreds of instances it is violated. The abuse is very common, but it ought to be ended. It is nothing more nor less than outright theft.

THE COST OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

Figures compiled by the Industrial Commission of Wisconsin for the year ending September 1, 1912, supply some idea of the great cost to the public of industrial accidents. Under the law of Wisconsin, employees are entitled to 65 per cent of the loss in wages during disability. Payments are made weekly, with the exception that the first week's wage may be withheld until the twenty-ninth day.

During the first year, 1,215 out of 4,641 cases reported were settled by the payment of the lump sum of \$63,422.99, an average of \$52.21 per case. This is the amount paid to the average injured employee; it does not represent the real cost of the accident. The \$52.21 represents 65 per cent of the average yearly earnings lost by the employee; the actual loss is \$80.32. In approximately 60 per cent of the cases the disability was for less than twenty-nine days, and so, in order to find the real loss, it is necessary to add a week's wage to the amount given above in 60 per cent of the cases. On the basis of an average wage of \$10.50, the wages lost in an average accident case would amount to \$86.62. The total loss, then, would amount to \$375,243.42.

If railway accidents were included, the total loss would reach about \$1,000,000. The cost of industrial accidents is excessive, especially in view of the fact that a great number of them are absolutely avoidable.

"PURE SHOES."

In several State Legislatures and in Congress "pure shoe" bills are pending. These measures in general follow the Plead law of Louisiana, which requires that all boots and shoes sold in the State in which substitutes for leather have been used shall be stamped on the sole so as to indicate that they are not all leather.

A civil district court of Louisiana has declared the Plead law invalid for the reason that it is "an unwarranted interference with the right of contract and of holding and of disposing of property." The decision holds that the

statute did not reach or correct any wrong to the public, and imposes burdens on those engaged in a lawful business which in effect are confiscatory. Stamping the shoes, the court found, made them unmarketable.

Not without merit it is asserted by the shoe manufacturers and dealers who are fighting "pure shoe" legislation that the substitutes are superior to leather, and that an exclusively leather product would advance the cost of footwear from 20 to 50 per cent. The public would have to bear that increase. "Pure shoe" legislation has made poor progress; there is little ground for believing that much is to be accomplished in such a direction.

PARCEL POST CHANGES.

Improvements in the parcel post service are in the power of Postmaster-General Burleson. It is his to make whatever changes he deems wise in the regulations. There are three modifications of the present system for which there appears to be a general demand.

The weight limit of parcel post packages, arbitrarily put at eleven pounds, should be changed. Parcel post rates are according to weight and distance, and it is difficult to understand why the government could not as profitably carry a thirty or forty-pound package as one weighing eleven pounds. It was demonstrated at the official hearing in Washington that 95 per cent of the express business is made up of shipments weighing 100 pounds or less. The average express package weighing thirty-two pounds. The express companies find the thirty-two-pound average profitable. The government should have the same experience in a forty-pound weight limit. It would bestow the advantages of the parcel post, by means of the rural delivery, to a wide territory not now served by the express companies. The weight limit could be increased gradually so that no inconvenience would result.

There should also be modification of the ruling that prohibits printed matter—books, catalogues, pamphlets—from being sent by parcel post in order not to decrease the receipts from second-class and third-class matter. Books, which are merchandise, ought to be carried under parcel post rates.

There should be changes in the regulation imposing practically prohibitive conditions upon liquids, oils, pastes, salves, and other articles easily liquefiable.

The Boston Globe confidently expects that the Postmaster-General, as soon as he is through parceling out appointments, will direct his attention to the parcel post, in which he can effect such changes as are required "to promote the service to the public." No sphere of activity could be entered by him more profitably to the people than this.

DILUTED DUTIES.

Phenolphthalein, blintzerol, benzaldehyde, nitotolol and diamidostilbenedisulfonate are dutiable under the new tariff bill, but the consumer finds solace in the fact that apatite, assafetida, balm of Gilead, bones, cudbear, divi-divi, dragon's blood, fossils, gunk, sticks, old junk, lava, leeches, manna, pulp, skeletons and spunk are on the free list. If we must do without diamidostilbenedisulfonate, we can at least have divi-divi.

These amazing facts from Dallas, Texas, ought to prick Richmond's pride along musical lines. To this breezy city of 92,000, or about half of our true population, came the Chicago Opera Company on tour. An executive committee of citizens stirred up so much enthusiasm for good music that four great audiences gathered to hear "Lucia" and other classics. One Saturday evening more than 5,000 people filled the City Auditorium, and the net proceeds reached \$16,000. The figures would have reached \$20,000 could more of the citizens have crowded into the hall. The police had to close the doors shortly after 8 o'clock. When Madame Tetrazzini sang the "Mad Scene," a musical riot broke loose that was only quelled by the playing of "Dixie." This throws a strange light on the esthetic taste of the Dallas populace, but the point remains—what kind of opera would draw an audience of 5,000 out of Richmond's 188,000 staid burghers?

Maybe the tariff train is coming through on the right schedule this time.

The Richmond dust has one advantage. It gets in your eyes so you can't see exactly how dirty the streets are.

Isn't it strange how some boncheads can be so soft?

Buffalo, West Virginia and these other rebellious places ought to be annexed to Mexico.

The baseball season is so near we are all shivery.

Sparing the fishing rod doesn't spoil the child.

Wonder what some poor folks who have to go on hunger strikes from necessity think of the amateurs at the game?

One of every four men in Richmond votes. The other three must be step-Richmonders.

"Give me solitude," pleads Elbert Hubbard. Try Lynchburg.

"I had a rifle range at Sagamore Hill, where I often took friends to shoot," writes T. R. in the Outlook, but he got old Taft without having to take him there.

Ambassador Page may have to be economical after he goes to the court of St. James. It may be necessary for him to press his own knickerbockers.

England need not worry about that war with Germany. The militant suffragettes would defend the tight little isle if only that they might dynamite it afterward.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Little Johnnie's Mystery.
By gum, when Sis puts on her hair
And takes a big hair pin
And fastens it right to her scalp.
Then shoves it right plumb in.

She then takes ten or fifteen more
And jabs 'em in her bones;
It's quite a mystery to me
How she can stand the pangs.

I once went to the circus and
I see a furry freak;
They say he had a rubber skin
Or leastwise, so to speak.

He shoved needles through his hide
And never made a yell;
But if I'd tried it I'd have dide,
I know it got going well.

But Sis has got that feller beat.
For when she has 'em all pinned
Tight to her scalp all trim and neat
The show has just begun.

The best part of it is to come
For then she grabs her hat
And does a trick that's got 'em some,
I'm here to tell you that!

She puts her hat upon her head
And without stopping to take aim
She jabs it right straight in.

She then sticks in 'bout seven more.
I'd think she'd be dead
A-walkin' round with all them things
A-stickin' in her head.

I tried to pin my hat on once
Like her, and it's a cinch
I had to quit before a hat pin
Was in my scalp one inch.

She jabs new holes right in her head.
Some thousand every week.
I'd think that she would be alarmed
For fear her roof would leak.

Side Talks With Girls.

If you want to land him he totally indifferent and let him see you with other young gentlemen as much as possible.

Don't let him know before you are married that you are a good cook or he will let you do it afterwards.

Before you are married promise him that he can stay out late at night as often as he pleases and then the first time he does rap him on the head with a rolling pin. He has no comeback then.

Don't let him see very many of your relatives before you have him hooked. You probably have a lot of funny ones. Everybody else has.

Tell him you hate the theatre and don't care a rap for automobiles or fine clothes, then when you get him let him find out differently.

From the Hickeyville Clarion.

Lem Higgins thought his electric lighting bill was too high and went to the office to kick about it. A gentleman sat down with him and explained it to him. Lem didn't know whether two and two make four or whether the Brooklyn Bridge was built over the Thames or the Rio Grande. There are some things that the mind of the ordinary mortal cannot grasp and one of them is an electric lighting bill.

It certainly beats all how many incoherent stragglers always get into a President's Cabinet. Some of them never even had their names in the paper for recommending a patent medicine.

Joseph Solomon had a thousand wives, but he had a snap at that. Not one of 'em buttoned up at that. Not one of 'em had a back.

Mrs. Anne Judson hung her husband's dress coat out on the line and the coat ate the tails off. Now it is a Tuxedo.

Voice of the People

Good Old Virginia Waters.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir:—The front page of your issue of April 10th contains an article on "Good Old Virginia Waters." It is a very interesting and timely article, and the pictures of a water-saturated landscape are a delight to the eye. It is a blessing that the Old Do-

waters, and of her healing the diseased to come to her sparkling fountains. When it comes to or no liquor, I want to see Virginia "dry," and believe she will be so, as long as the State is steadily crystallizing into a solid purpose to rid the State of an intolerable burden. But, we need never fear of "dryness" in the matter of an abundant and healthful supply of good water; this is the prime requisite of all towns and communities. "How is the water?" are ever the foremost questions asked by prospective investors in any locality. And other conditions may be favorable, but an inadequate water supply or bad water will counterbalance the attractions and advantages.

The "spirituous wet" industry in another State of the republic is sending forth an appeal to make that State the wettest in the Union. That is the kind of patriotism and good sense that the patriotism and good sense of Montana's electorate will sufficiently rebuff this species of undesirable advertising.

Yes, along with her many, many advantages and attractions, let's hang out our banner on the outer world and rejoice that it is so. Pure, crystal, sparkling water—that healthful and refreshing beverage which the Alps sparkle in the valley and the mountain side, in the deep, etc., so much better than the concoctions of man's invention, which partly by the brain, the telephone, wreck the will and make weaklings of strong men and cause innocent women and children to suffer. Tap the fruitful water veins in this grandest of lands over which the skies bend, and let the gushing liquid come.

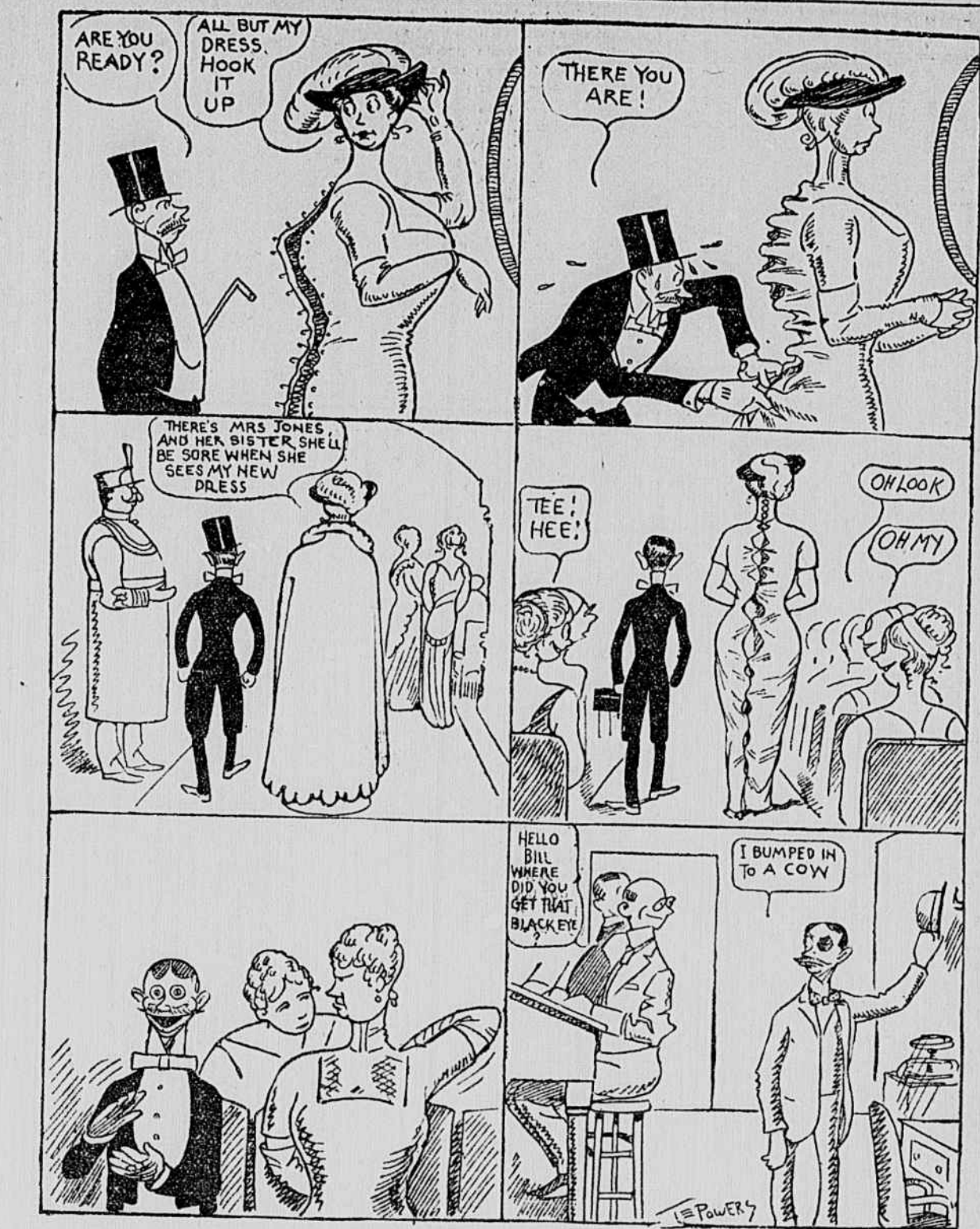
Abe Martin

PERMANENT NUT SUNDAY

A white waistcoat should be cleaned immediately after a banquet or not at all. The latter is the safer plan in this life that ain't equal gittin' on a wrong train with three children.

HE HOOKED HER—SHE HOOKED HIM

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forth to quench the thirst of the multitude and to restore to health the crippled bodily functions which may be suffering from the effects of the heat.

Here's to the health and prosperity of all Virginia "water-cure" stations! All Kenyon bill will ever be introduced in Congress to hamper the interstate shipment of packages which make for better health and happiness of the people. W. M. BICKERS, Richmond.

The March of the Suffragettes.
They marched down Old Penn Avenue. Some several thousand strong. The ranks of suffragettes strung out more than a good mile long. Their pennants fluttered in the breeze. Keened by the clear sunlight. While floating high above them all. Old Glory waved in sight.

Red, White, Blue bars and golden stars. Seemed joined in one acclaim. Announcing their wide demand: To do as the rolling sea. To all—not just to some. To men and women both alike. With preference to none.

A quarter of a million folk. Looked on the marching file. Cheering each heroine in line. In grand old-fashioned style. But there was one in that throng. Praised from all of our zones. Reverberating loud and long. For General Gardner Jones.

Proud of our women? Well, I guess! And why should we not be? She's so much wiser than her coz'. Across the rolling sea. Both draw the sword for justice—true. Together hand-in-hand. Here methods orderly prevail. All over our broad land.

And since God lives, and right is right. Right soon will win the day. To do as the rolling sea. Fastening will bring assent. The time can't be far distant when. Will walk with the male species up. Straight to the ballot box and cast. Their votes in sweet accord. Both best to serve the government. And both will please the Lord. Philadelphia, Pa. Rev. D. H. KENNEY.

VIEWS OF THE VIRGINIA EDITORS

Black and Green.
W. H. Richardson tells this good one: A resident of a Northern State just arrived, said to an old dandy, "Every thing seems to be black about here, you are black and even the trees are black." Whereupon the dandy said: "Yes, sah, boss, things is black, the trees is black, but in short time they will be as green as you is." Silence reigned supreme.—Farmville correspondent, Appomattox Times-Virginian.

What of Tax Segregation?
I would like for those who advocate segregation in the matter of taxation to show if segregation has been tried by any of the States. And if so with what success.

Does segregation mean a reduction of our already heavy burden of taxes? You may say that it is spending the greater part of our taxes at home. Yes, it is. But there is much money wasted at home. How much is wasted in mudholes every year? Twenty years ago our revenue for roads in this district was less than one-third of what it is now, and we had as good or better roads than we have to-day. I don't mean by this that there is not an extravagant waste by the State. I will only mention one or two of them. One is the amount appropriated for the highway commission as applied. It is just a farce. And another is the time or rock-grinding business.

I am our candidates. What is your objection to the fair and honest method practiced by the State of Missouri, that is to assess all real estate and personal property, including bonds, at their full value, and make two-fifths of the whole subject to taxation.

A Cross Farmer.
John D. Huffman is the only one engaged in growing cress in this end of the county. The cress pond is down by the Huffman springhouse—a nice farm spot where the cress thrives and the water lily grows. Mr. H. will

Speak Up!
Candidates for the General Assembly over the State either have not decided what they stand for in the way of legislation or else they are too modest to inform the voters. Nothing can be lost by speaking out.—Fredericksburg Free Lance.

A Graceful Explanation.
A very amusing incident occurred at the conclusion of Governor Mann's speech. In the midst of Mr. Barnhart's expressions of appreciation of the speech a crash was heard on the rostrum, and on glancing in the direction of the noise, Mayor Howe discovered extricating himself from the ruins of a chair. As he very fittingly remarked, "That is what happens when you have a big man around."—Fredericksburg Free Lance.

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